GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3461
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2003
DECLINE IN PRICE OF COCONUT
SURESH KURUP

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there has been an unprecedented fall in price of coconut in recent past due to the duty cuts and other concessions allowed to edible oils especially palm oil groups;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to raise the import duty and tariff value of edible oils to reasonable level under WTO bound rates; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)&(b): No, Sir. The month end wholesale prices of Milling Copra of Fair Average Quality(FAQ) in Kerala have been ruling well above the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs.3320 per quintal fixed for 2003 season. Further the Wholesale Price Index of Copra has shown an upward trend and in July, 2003 was 11.7 per cent higher than that in the corresponding month of the previous year.

(c)&(d): The current applied rate of tariff on coconut oil (crude) is 75 per cent while the same for refined coconut oil is 92.4% (inclusive of 4 per cent Special Additional Duty). The WTO bound rate of tariff is 300 per cent for both crude and refined coconut oil. There is, thus considerable flexibility with Government for imposing appropriate tariff on edible oils within the bound level to protect the interest of farmers.